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Amendments to the Claims

Please Amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method for inspecting rail equipment and storing information relating to the inspection comprising:

providing rail equipment having a plurality of parts;

inspecting the rail equipment to determine a damage condition of each of the parts of the rail equipment;

providing a data entry system comprising a plurality of fields;

querying a user of the data entry system for information relating to the damage condition of each of the parts of the rail equipment;

entering the damage condition of each of the parts of the rail equipment into each of the plurality of fields;

generating at least one report showing an overall damage condition of the rail equipment that is calculated from the information input into the data entry system;

providing a plurality of dispositions for the rail equipment wherein at least one of the dispositions comprises ~~repairing the rail equipment using~~ dispatching a mobile repair unit to repair the rail equipment, wherein the mobile repair unit is a vehicle equipped to provide mechanical services to the rail equipment without requiring the rail equipment to be moved to a repair facility;

automatically assigning, via the data entry system, one of the plurality of dispositions to the rail equipment based on the overall damage condition of the rail equipment; and

providing a database interconnected with the data entry system ~~for storing to store~~ information input into the data entry system ~~or~~ and generated by the data entry system.

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2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the report comprises information relating to an estimated cost of repair of the rail equipment.
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the data entry system stores information relating to a plurality of types of railcars.
4. (previously presented) The method of claim 3 wherein the railcars are selected from the group consisting of box cars, flat cars, hopper cars, general purpose tank cars, open top hopper and gondola cars, plastic pellet cars, pressure differential cars and pressure tank cars.
5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the report comprises information related to whether the rail equipment must be repaired or whether the rail equipment is useable in its present state.
6. (previously presented) The method of claim 5 wherein the report further comprises information related to whether the rail equipment is repairable by a mobile repair unit or whether the rail equipment must be shopped.
7. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
printing blank forms relating to the rail equipment from the data entry system.
8. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
assigning a damage indicator for each part of the rail equipment; and
inputting the damage indicator for each part of the rail equipment into the data entry system.
9. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
adding information into the data entry system relating to the inspector of the rail equipment.

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10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the information further comprises the identity of the rail equipment.

11. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

selecting a record of rail equipment from the database;

editing information on the record of the rail equipment; and

saving the information to the database.

12. (currently amended) A data entry system for the entry of information relating to the inspection of rail equipment having a plurality of parts, processing said information for determining a disposition for the rail equipment, and generating reports related thereto, comprising:

means for inputting information relating to the type of rail equipment;

means for inputting information relating to an identification of the rail equipment;

means for querying a user for information relating to a damage condition of each of the parts of the rail equipment;

means for inputting the information relating to the damage condition of each of the parts of the rail equipment;

means for calculating an overall damage condition for the rail equipment based on the information relating to the damage condition of each of the parts of the rail equipment;

means for automatically determining and assigning a disposition from a plurality of dispositions based on the overall damage condition of the rail equipment wherein at least one of the plurality of dispositions comprises ~~assigning~~ dispatching a mobile repair unit to repair damage to the rail equipment, wherein the mobile repair unit is a vehicle equipped to provide

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mechanical services to the rail equipment without requiring the rail equipment to be moved to a repair facility; and

means for generating at least one report showing the overall damage condition related to the information entered about the damage condition of each of the parts of the rail equipment and further showing the disposition assigned to the rail equipment based on the overall damage condition of the rail equipment.

13. (previously presented) The data entry system of claim 12 wherein the report comprises information relating to an estimated cost of repair for the rail equipment based on the information input relating to the condition of the equipment.

14. (previously presented) The data entry system of claim 12 further comprising a database having the information input into the data entry system stored therein.

15. (previously presented) The data entry system of claim 12 further comprising: means for calculating an estimated total repair cost for the rail equipment.

16. (original) The data entry system of claim 12 wherein the rail equipment is a railcar.

17. (original) The data entry system of claim 12 wherein the information relating to the condition of the rail equipment indicates whether the rail equipment is damaged.

18. (original) The data entry system of claim 12 further comprising: means for printing blank forms for a plurality of types of rail equipment.

19. (original) The data entry system of claim 12 wherein the reports indicate whether the rail equipment is useable in its present form or whether the rail equipment needs repairs.

20. (original) The data entry system of claim 12 further comprising: means for saving the information and reports into a database.